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# COMIC SHOP NEWS

From

A Comics Specialty Outlet

THE WEEKLY COMICS NEWSLETTER!

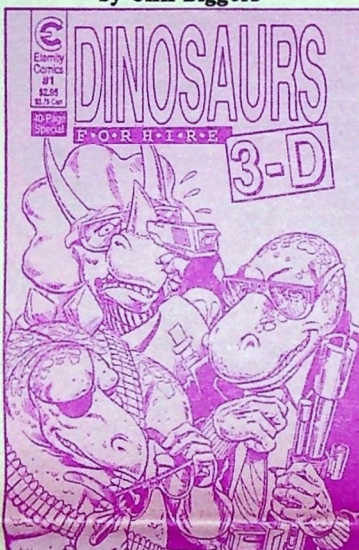
## Eternity's Dinosaurs Are Far From Fossilized

by Cliff Biggers

It's hard to believe that a series that began with Elvis Presley as the main character, only to replace him with extinct reptiles prior to publication, could become one of the biggest hit black-and-white comics of 1988, but that's exactly what's happened with *Dinosaurs for Hire* from Eternity.

Eternity certainly isn't arguing; in fact, the company is adjusting its schedule to offer *Dinosaurs for Hire* on a monthly basis beginning with its fourth issue, on sale in September.

Furthermore, in a strange twist of events, there will be a rather unusual guest star in *Dinosaurs for Hire Fall Classic*, a 48-page special set to hit comic shops this October: a clone of Elvis. "The King is brought back to life," *Dinosaurs for Hire* writer/creator Tom Mason said, "and appears to be killing off all the people who abused him and took advantage of him during his short career. It's a natural case for the *Dinosaurs*." What makes this particularly ironic is the fact that *Dinosaurs for Hire* originally began as a one-shot comic entitled *Elvis: Undercover*. "All I did, basically," Mason said, "was to



replace the king of rock and roll with three dinosaurs. And now he's back." The fall special will be illustrated by Nigel Tully, and will feature a cover by Brooks Hagan.

October will also present another *Dinosaurs for Hire* special project: a 3-D version of *Dinosaurs for Hire* #1.

*Dinosaurs for Hire* #4 will introduce Jasper McWilliams and his campaign for public office on an anti-dinosaur ticket. "He really ticks the boys off," Mason said, and they plot to shut him down." The issue will be illustrated by guest-artist Scott Bieser, who did the pencil art for the cover to *Dinosaurs for Hire* #3.

*Dinosaurs for Hire* #5 "will clean up a lot of the loose ends that have been floating around since the first issue," Mason said. He wouldn't be more specific than that, though. "I have some ideas plotted out, but nothing's really firm yet. I keep promising to tell their origin, and I think I'll do just that; keep promising."

*Dinosaurs for Hire* ©1988 Eternity

## Eclipse Homes In On Pigeons From Hell

by Cliff Biggers

Robert E. Howard's imagination has been a fertile ground for comics adaptations, ranging from the heroic fantasy of Conan to the dark, brooding fantasy of "Valley of the Worm." One of Howard's most terrifying stories will come to comics form in October when *Pigeons From Hell*, adapted and painstakingly painted by Scott Hampton, will be published as a graphic novel by Eclipse.



Howard's *Pigeons From Hell* is the story of two New Englanders who set out on a Southern vacation in the midst of the Depression; their vacation becomes a night of terror once they decide to stay over in an abandoned antebellum mansion.

Stephen King, in his book *Dance Macabre*, praised "Pigeons From Hell" as "one of the best short stories of this century." The story inspired one of the finest episodes of the Boris Karloff horror anthology television series *Thriller* in the early 1960s.

Now Scott Hampton has produced a 64-page graphic novel adaptation; the meticulously painted adaptation has been in the works for over two years. Hampton's stunning painting style can be seen in *Silverheels*, already released from Eclipse in graphic novel form.

Hampton stresses that *Pigeons From Hell* is a powerful horror story, not a heroic fantasy. "A lot of people didn't know that Howard wrote horror stories as well," he said. "I've put a lot of effort into capturing the mood of Howard's story, because the mood is what makes the story work. Adapting a story to comics form is a delicate process; I don't think that people who enjoyed the original story will be at all disappointed with the graphic novel."

*Pigeons From Hell* will reach comic shops in early October, in time for Halloween sales; the 64-page 8 1/2 by 11 graphic novel will be priced at \$7.95.

Art ©1988 Scott Hampton

## 4Winds Finds Publishing To Be a Breeze

by Cliff Biggers

4Winds has produced some of Eclipse Comics' most popular series, including the much-praised *Scout: War Shaman* and *The Prowler*, beginning early next year, though, 4Winds will become a publisher, offering a line of quality European reprint graphic novels and, later in the year, original graphic novels by major European and American talents.

4Winds Publishing Group, which will operate totally independent of the 4Winds packaging studio that prepares books for Eclipse, will operate under the direction of Charles Dixon and Timothy Truman, the 4Winds founders. The company will specialize in the production of handsome, perennially selling graphic novels and collectible gallery quality art prints. The books set for publication from 4Winds will run the gamut from science fiction to fantasy to action-adventure; many of the 4Winds graphic novels will see almost immediate publication in Europe and South America as well as the United States.

"I've never made a convention appearance where someone didn't eventually ask me when we were going to go into publishing for ourselves. However, I'd like to make it clear that we're establishing a publishing company, not a self-publishing company or 'vanity press.' We're proud of the work we do for other companies and satisfied with the professional relationships we have with those publishers, and will continue doing freelance assignments for them. The 4Winds Publishing Group is being set up so that we can take advantage of overseas contacts that we've established, bring some absolutely first-rate graphic entertainment into this country, and give some of our own original work an even greater degree of international exposure."

The initial 4Winds offerings will be works by major international comics creators, as the company makes their work known in America through a series of high-quality graphic album collections. "We are wrapping up negotiations for the first two volumes we'll be publishing, and Charles Dixon will be traveling to Argentina in August to meet with European and South American creators and publishers and finalize negotiations for future work."

Truman speaks very highly of the caliber of talent to be represented in the 4Winds publications. "Their work is just as powerful as that of other great foreign cartoonists like Moebius, Kojima, Bolland, and Gibbons, and in their own countries is just as well respected. The only nations where their work hasn't appeared are America and Bangla Desh."

4Winds plans to be as faithful to the mood and tone of the foreign works as is possible; the company feels that with a few notable exceptions, most of the European titles published in America are translated by not "Americanized." This makes the work appear stilted and ultimately damages stories that might have been very rewarding reading in their original language. 4Winds intends to faithfully translate the stories in a way that will have the most impact on an American audience.

The first publication slated from 4Winds is *Moving Fortress, Book One and Book Two*, written by Ricardo Barreiro and illustrated by Alcatena. *Moving Fortress Book One* will be a 64-page graphic novel that will appear late this year. *Book Two* will appear early in 1989. Once the series is completed (it is still being serialized in South American and European comics magazines), there will be a third volume.

*Moving Fortress* is set in a world where armies in animal-shaped dirigibles and hawk-riding assassins form an uneasy alliance against a vast, mobile city-

fortress. 4Winds calls it "one of the most lushly illustrated fantasy epics ever created. The writing is packed with characterization and subterfuge." The second volume is "even darker and more violent than the first book—a horror fantasy filled with strange beasts and even stranger people."

4Winds says that later in 1989, the company will offer new all-original material and other outstanding foreign reprints as well, including works by Dixon and Truman. Dixon is currently writing a series that will be anthologized in South American and European magazines; once it is completed, it will be collected into a 4Winds graphic novel. Once Tim Truman finishes writing and drawing *Scout: War Shaman* for Eclipse next summer, he will write and draw the first volume of a projected historical series, *Bloody Ground*, for 4Winds before he resumes his Scout series for Eclipse with *Scout: Marauder*.



Right: *Moving Fortress*. Above: *loody Ground*  
©1988 4Winds Publishing





# NEWSBRIEFS

## DARK HORSE HAS BIG PLANS FOR BIG LITTLE BOOKS

Remember **Big Little Books**? If the phrase is meaningless to you, then you obviously weren't a fan many years ago when this popular format was in its heyday. A **Big Little Book** is a small hardcover book, just a little bit larger than a mini-comic, but with hundreds of pages of text and art. It's not exactly a comic book, but is instead an illustrated story. The format faded away in the late 1960's, but **Dark Horse** is doing its part to bring **Big Little Books** back in 1989 with the publication of **Big Little Books of Bob Burden's Flaming Carrot**, Paul Chadwick's **Concrete**, and Michael T. Gilbert's **Mr. Monster**. Each BLB will have over 300 pages.

The first of **Dark Horse's Great Big Little Books** should reach comics shops shortly after the first of the year, with price to be announced.

## SUMMER FEATURES HOT SELL-OUTS

This has been quite a summer for sellout successes, it appears; **Dark Horse's Aliens #1** has totally sold out of its 60,000 copy first printing run and will be going back to print for a second printing almost immediately. **Dark Horse** anticipated heavy demand for the book, but even their 60% overprinting was gone in almost no time at all. The second printing will feature a new inside front cover illustration and a few minor changes in the book, but nothing that would affect the direction of the storyline or the readers' enjoyment of the first printing, according to **Randy Stradley**, editor at **Dark Horse**.

Meanwhile, **Black Kiss #1** was an instant sell-out back in June, with every copy disappearing in less than 24 hours. **Vortex Comics**, the publishers of **Chaykin's Black Kiss**, have announced that a second printing will be available at the end of August.



## BUCK ROGERS JETS TO ETERNITY

**Buck Rogers, 25th Century AD** will be the star of a new **Eternity** title, **Cosmic Heroes**, that is set for October release. The new book will be a reprinting of the original **Buck Rogers** stories by **Nowlan and Calkins**. The monthly

series will begin reprinting **Buck Rogers** adventures with the 1934 "Doomed Planets" storyline, and will reprint only daily strips (Sunday strips featured a separate storyline).

**Dave Olbrich**, publisher of **Eternity**, was very enthused about the new title. "Our series will be solicited under the name **Cosmic Heroes** and should serve as the perfect companion to DC's new **Buck Rogers** comic book which will also be coming out this fall." **Cosmic Heroes** joins **Sherlock Holmes**, **Crime Classics** (reprinting **Shadow Strips**) and **Private Eyes** (reprinting **Saint comic strips**) in **Eternity's** growing line of strip reprints.

## HE'S CAPTAIN OF THEIR FATE

As regular **CSN** readers know, **Avengers #298** will mark the total dissolution of the team as not a single **Avenger** appears in that issue. With **Avengers #299**, on sale September 22nd, the team begins to rebuild itself at the hands of the Captain, who sets out to recruit a new band of **Avengers**. **Avengers #299** and **#300** will focus on the re-formation of the **Avengers**. The usual team of **Walt Simonson**, **John Buscema**, and **Tom Palmer** are responsible for this pivotal issue.

## SAKAI STORYLINES COME TOGETHER IN USAGI YOJIMBO

**Usagi Yojimbo #13** will feature the first part of "The Dragon Bellow Conspiracy," a storyline that will bring together the stories of some of writer/artist **Stan Sakai's** most popular characters. **Tomoe Ame**, **Gen**, **Zato-Iro**, **Lord Hikiji**, and (of course) **Usagi Yojimbo** will all play major roles in the multi-part storyline, which should run through **Usagi Yojimbo #17** or **#18**.

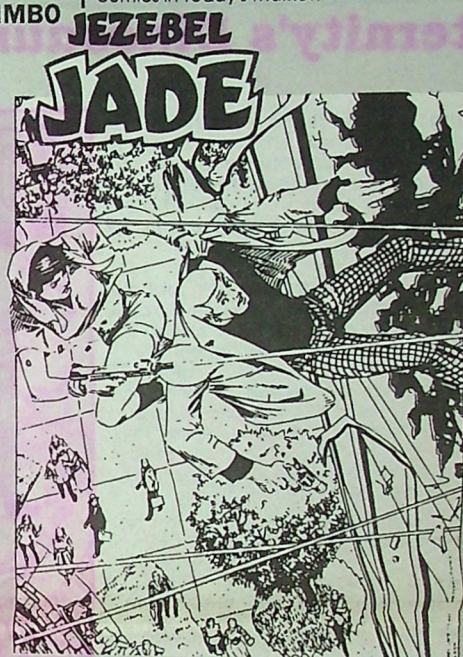
## REAL LOVE IS ALL YOU NEED

Many of today's comics fans know **Joe Simon** and **Jack Kirby** for their work on such action-packed strips as **Captain America**--but they may not realize that **Simon** and **Kirby** singlehandedly created the romance comic. Romance comics have gotten some pretty bad press in the past few decades, but the original **Simon** and **Kirby** romance comics were quite different from the formula **Harlequin-Romance**-like comics of the '60s and '70s. As **Eclipse Comics** says, "Unlike the formula plots that were to follow, these stories were by adults, for adults." Unfortunately, the age and the rarity of the



**Simon** and **Kirby** romance books has made it very difficult for today's comics fan to gain an appreciation of them. That's a problem that **Eclipse Comics** and **Richard Howell** are hoping to remedy, however, with their publication of **Real Love: The Best of the Simon and Kirby Romance Comics**. **Richard Howell**, a comics writer and artist who has worked on **Vision** and **Scarlet Witch**, **Power Man** and **Iron Fist**, **Hawkman**, **Green Lantern**, and **Spectacular Spider-Man**, is editing the 160-page compilation volume, which should be available from **Eclipse** in mid-September.

In preparing this volume, **Howell** has secured the cooperation of both **Joe Simon** and **Jack Kirby**. **Simon** and **Kirby** worked with **Howell** to locate the best possible reproduction copies of works by **Simon** and **Kirby** themselves, as well as **Mort Meskin** and **Bruno Premiani**. **Eclipse** is hopeful that the graphic album will not only appeal to fans of **Simon** and **Kirby's** work, but will appeal to adult women, many of whom find little to interest them in today's comics. The black and white 8 1/2 x 11 trade paperback will carry a \$12.95 price-tag--less than the price of a single issue of the original **Simon** and **Kirby** romance comics in today's market.



## OCTOBER IS JONNY QUEST MONTH AT COMICO

**Jonny Quest** fans will celebrate this October for sure, when three **Jonny Quest**-related titles are available from **Comico**. **Jezebel Jade #1** focuses on the popular female spy from **Jonny Quest**. The new 3-issue miniseries will deal with the first confrontation between **Jezebel Jade** and **Race Bannon**, predating his involvement with the **Quest** team. **Race** is sent to **Hong Kong** to rescue a kidnapped scientist, only to find that **Jade** isn't too keen on his carrying out his mission. The new series is written by **Jonny Quest** writer **William Messner-Loebs** and completely illustrated by **Adam Kubert**.

**Jonny Quest Special #2** pits the **Quest** team against the reanimated Soviet leader **Lenin**, the mind-enraptured citizens of **Moscow**, and a bizarre meteorite in a story by **Arthur Byron Cover** illustrated by **John Hebert** and **Bill Anderson**, with painted color by **Mark Wheatley**. **Ron Frenz** and **Bill Anderson** will be contributing the cover for the special issue. The book will also feature pin-ups by **Rod Whigham**, **Tim Sale**, **Richard Howell**, and more.

Finally, **Jonny Quest #29** will conclude the "Kings of the West" storyline in which **Race** faces off against **Boss Swenson**, while **Jonny** and **Hadji** investigate the mystery of **Wild Jim Cannon** and **Jezebel Jade's** defection. **William Messner-Loebs** writes the story, and **Marc Hempel**, **Mark Wheatley**, and **Kathryn Mayer** illustrate it.

Both **Jezebel Jade #1** and **Jonny Quest Special #2** should be available in mid-October; **Jonny Quest #29** should reach comics shops a week later.



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**COMIC SHOP NEWS**

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# NEWSBRIEFS

## ACTION COMICS WEEKLY UPDATE

Fans of the current Black Canary storyline will be pleased to hear that the Black Canary is returning to the pages of *Action Comics Weekly* with issue #624, on sale September 15th. In addition, Alan Davis will contribute a Black Canary cover.

*Action Comics Weekly* #625, on sale September 22nd, will feature a Deadman cover by Eduardo Barreto as the second Deadman storyline concludes.

*Action Comics Weekly* #626 will feature a Nightwing Cover by Gil Kane as Nightwing and Speedy return to the series, courtesy of Marv Wolfman and Tom Mandrake. The same issue will feature the conclusion of the four-part Shazam! storyline—which will be the lead-in to an all-new monthly Shazam! series starring the original Captain Marvel, courtesy of Roy and Dann Thomas, and Ricks Stasi and Magyar.

*Action Comics Weekly* #627 will feature Andy Kubert art on a Paul Kupperberg one-part Phantom Stranger story; Paul Chadwick, award-winning artist of Concrete, will contribute a Green Lantern cover.

## VIVA LAS VEGAS!

(7/16) *The Incredible Hulk* #351, on sale September 22nd, will fill readers in on just how the Hulk survived that explosion back in *Incredible Hulk* #345—and how he ended up a bouncer in Las Vegas. Peter David, the ace writer behind the Hulk's adventures for the past couple of years, does the honors on this one, while the art team of Jeff Purves and Terry Austin adds pictures to the whole thing.

If you didn't know that things had been shaken up a bit on *The Incredible Hulk*, this is a great time to find out just what's going on.

## STROMAN TAKES OVER REVENGERS ART

Continuity's *Revengers* #6 will mark the debut of a new artist, Larry Stroman, on the feature. Stroman joins Continuity as the *Revengers* penciller just in time to present the Hybrids, a strange group of aliens who want the world to relinquish power to them. Naturally, Megalith takes poorly to this idea, and comics fans can predict what happens next.

Check it out in *Revengers* #6, on sale in September.

## CAPTAIN CRUNCHES IRON MAN VILLAINS

When Iron Man is faced by villains like The Rhino, Blizzard, Madame Masque, and Justin Hammer, who does he call on for help? The Captain, that's who! Steve Rogers fans won't want to miss the special Captain guest-starring role in *Iron Man* #238, on sale September 29th, in a story written by David Michelinie and illustrated by Jackson Guice and Bob Layton.

## SPECTRE CHECKS OUT NEW HAUNTS

In *Spectre* #22, on sale October 6th, Zoran takes Corrigan and his gang of bizarre new operatives on a journey into the Sea of Darkness. Fans who normally don't read *The Spectre* might want to put this one on their must-read list, though, as it will lead into *Spectre* #23, which will feature a gathering of the mystical heroes of the DC Universe. Doug Moench and Bart Sears are behind the *Spectre*'s mystical meanderings.

## DREAMERY FEATURES HALLOWEEN NIGHTMARES

*The Dreamery* #12 will be a Halloween special of sorts, featuring four short stories suited for the Halloween season. The first story, "Sprung-hack'Hans," by Donna Barr, focuses on the horrors that can be found in a haunted

swamp. In "Prince Ivan, Part 5," by Diane Duane and Sherlock, Ivan continues his quest to free his wife from an evil sorcerer. Tim Sale offers a very different view of monsters in "The Order." Cathy Hill does the final story, "The Raccoon Pirates," which reveals what happened when the Raccoons tried buccaneering. Look for it in comics shops on October 13th.

## IT'S TIME FOR TIMELESS TALES

Bob Powell, one of the best-known of all the Golden Age comics artists, will be the subject of a special comic from Eclipse this October, when *Bob Powell's Timeless Tales* #1 will appear on comics shop shelves. The book will feature three Powell stories, including one of his best known, "Got a Match," a WWII action/romance story reminiscent of *Casablanca*. The other two stories will feature Ronda the cave man as he is caught between the battling tribes of Broklin and Nu Jerzy in previously unpublished adventures.

## THE GORE, THE MERRIER...

Blackthorne has done a number of film adaptations in recent times, but their adaptation of *Waxwork*, coming up in September, is certainly one of the more unusual they've ever offered. Blackthorne is touting the book as "the most horrific comic book ever produced," and warns everyone that "Waxwork...contains scenes of extreme graphic violence and adult situations." The comic is being offered in both a regular edition and a 3-D edition; splatter movie fans might want to poke an eye out—that is, keep an eye out for it.

## DON'T YOU LOVE HER MADDY?

In *X-Factor* #36, on sale September 29th, Scott and Jean learn the truth about Scott's wife, Maddy, who has been an object of Scott's search for quite a while. In the same issue, the Angel returns—but he's an angel in name only in this comic by Louise Simonson, Walt Simonson, and Bob Wallace. Oh, yes—it's

also an Inferno tie-in, so Inferno fans won't want to miss it, either.

## SLAVE LABOR TELLS TALES FROM THE HEART

*Tales From the Heart*, the popular title formerly published by Entropy Comics, has been picked up by Slave Labor Graphics, who will continue the book beginning in November of this year. "Tales From the Heart" caught my attention the first time I saw it," said Slave Labor publisher Dan Vado. "When I found out that it was no longer being published, I lunged at the opportunity to revive it. In a time when comics are being promoted for their body counts and they all take the point of view that the world is going to hell, *Tales From the Heart* stands out and is a refreshing change of pace." The critically-acclaimed title is the story of a young girl from Minnesota who joins the Peace Corps and serves in Africa; it is co-written by Cindy Goff and Rafael Nieves and illustrated by Seitu Hayden.

## COMICO HAS THE BLOODSCENT

*Bloodscent*, a new comic title from Comico, will feature pencilled artwork by one of comics' greatest horror artists: Gene Colan. For years, comics professionals have been aware that Gene Colan's moody, superlative pencils have been some of the most difficult pieces of pencilled artwork for any inker to embellish, and several companies



©1988 Dean Schreck and Gene Colan

have eliminated the inker altogether and reproduced comics just from Colan's pencils. *Bloodscent* joins the list of books shot from Colan's pencils. The pencilled artwork will be handcolored by Steve Oliff. This will allow the subtle nuances of Colan's artwork to come through as he intended. The book will feature a lead story by Dean Allen Schreck about a serial killer who becomes the prey, not the hunter; it will also feature a Schreck back-up story illustrated by Bernie Mireault that explores the darker side of the mind of a suburban housewife. *Bloodscent* #1, on sale in comics shops in early October, will also feature an introduction by special effects expert Tom Savini.

## THE HARD LINE ACCORDING TO TRENT PHLOOG

Fans of Donald Simpson's witty *Return of Megalon Man* will be as interested as Trent Phloog himself to find out just who's behind his return as Megalon Man. Of course, Trent's not too happy about it—but comics fans will be, as *Return of Megalon Man* #3 hits the comics shops in mid-September. Look for the final full-color issue of this three issue series in your comics shops—and judging from sales of the first issue, you might want to let them know you want a copy, just in case they sell out fast!



Larry Stroman's art for *Revengers* #6 due in September. ©1988 Continuity Comics



# SPOTLIGHT ON ARCHIE GOODWIN

by Ward Batty & Cliff Biggers

Archie Goodwin has established himself as both a writer and an editor in the comics field; currently, the editing is what's taking up most of his time, since he is in charge of Marvel's Epic line. Archie took a little time to talk to *Comic Shop News* at this year's Atlanta Fantasy Fair about Epic and comics in general.

The *Shadowline Saga* seems to be a pretty big success for Epic.

We're still getting everything into place in those books—getting things going. We're just now getting the third issues of those books out; by the end of the sixth issues, the storylines will come together a little bit more as you get Dr. Zero and St. George actually involved with one another. Then, through the character Ripley in *Powerline*, the two kids in *Powerline* will also get woven into a confrontation that will hopefully take place between Zero and St. George in 1989. We're still getting those books into place and getting the line established right now; it takes a while to introduce all the concept in this series to the readers.

This is pretty much a separate universe, isn't it?

I wouldn't want to live there, that's for sure; it's very separate from my universe. It's certainly very different from the Marvel Universe or the universe presented in any other Epic book—or any other universe that's floating around.

One of the things I always thought was that we needed some books that would be regular ongoing books that some people could identify as the Epic Comics; while we would still do a wide variety of other things, we'd give them something to focus on as Epic Comics. When you're too diverse, readers can't think of anything when you say Epic Comics. Now they can say, "Oh, yeah, they do the *Shadowline* books, and they also do *Blood* and *Shay Toasters*."

There will be *Shadowline* crossovers coming up pretty soon; with the fourth issue of *Powerline*, two *Shadow Dweller* villains that first appear in *St. George* #3 show up again against the *Powerline* kids. In #3, you have Bamabas from St. George and Ripley from *Powerline* meet and you find out that Ripley used to be a part of the order of St. George. You begin to see how their lives interconnect and dovetail a little bit more with each issue.

Epic has a number of new projects upcoming, doesn't it?

Oh yes; judging by what's going on in the offices, I think we may have too many. We have the *Someplace Strange* graphic novel by Ann Nocenti and John Bolton; I think this is some of the best artwork that John Bolton's ever done. He's done some great stuff, too—*Marada the She-Wolf* and *Black Dragon* and the X-Men backups in *Classic X-Men*. He liked working with Ann; she does these weird, off-beat stories that appeal to the perverse side of John. Basically, it's an Alice-in-Wonderland story, or



Akira TM & © 1988 MASH\*ROOM Co., Ltd.

maybe Peter Pan on acid. You have three kids who are sucked into a nightmare world where they have to confront their own fears and emotions. In this bizarre nightmare-like setting, they have to defeat their fears or lose themselves there forever. It works on two levels, as both a straight, bizarre adventure and a tale of growing up as well.

*Someplace Strange* is pretty much a one-shot graphic novel, but John and Ann have ideas for other graphic novels that will be set in this world—*Someplace Stranger* is one of them, and I'm not sure what the third graphic novel's title is yet, but I know they're tossing around ideas.

That'll be followed by *The Light and Darkness War*, a six-issue limited series written by To Veitch and beautifully drawn and painted by Cam Kennedy. I think a lot of people are going to be surprised by just how good this book is going to be. In *Outcasts* for DC, Kennedy had another inker on him, and no one has seen his fully painted style here in America.

This is about a Vietnam helicopter gun crew killed in the Vietnam War and reincarnated in this fantasy afterlife where there's this perpetual ongoing war between the forces of light and darkness. They're enlisted into it at the same time one of the leaders of darkness has found a way to pierce the barrier to earth and import modern technology. These guys are in place to deal with the technology and help defeat. The thing that appealed to me about

doing it is that no one normally wants to do fantasy; when you talk to people about fantasy, most of them either want to do Lord of the Rings fantasy or Conan fantasy. I thought this was very different fantasy; by using the Vietnam setting, they give a nice serious under face to all of this, even though there's a lot of action and a lot of fantasy elements. A lot of the book focuses on Lazarus Jones, this one member who didn't die in Vietnam but who hasn't really recovered from the war, either.

What happened with *The Last American*? I see it's been delayed until 1989.

We've delayed it in order to give Mike McMahon a chance to get some issues done. Rather than duplicate the *Marshal Law* experience, we've decided it's better to postpone it and get a couple of issues in the drawer. We'll bring it out in 1989.

*Marshal Law* has been frustrating at times, because it's so very good that we want to get it out as frequently as possible—everyone wants to see the next issue. Pat Mills has had the stories done for the six issues, but Kevin O'Neill is a very painstaking artist. Some artists are late because they over-commit and their doing ten zillion other projects and can't finish off the one they're working on. With Kevin, his life is *Marshal Law* at the moment, but he works painstakingly and slowly. When you see the work, you know its worth it, but he is doing full paintings, and that takes time. Not everyone is Bill Sienkiewicz—not everyone can turn that level of work around quickly.

There seems to be a real British Invasion in American comics.

Yeah, there does. Sometimes I wonder why it's as big as it is; one reason, of course, is that a lot of the people are extremely good at what they do. Also, our market in the last three or four years has been really kind of ripe for something a little different, a little more unusual than what we've been doing. There's nothing wrong with what we've been doing, but before the British writers and artists came in, there was a sort of status quo to what we were doing. I think a lot of the British creators bring a slightly different perspective to everything. Along with their talent, they've given us material that has a fresh approach and attitude.

The American fascination with the British artists and writers has been good for the British creators as well as the American readers. We get excellent comics, and they get more money for what they're doing. The British publishers have come in line and have begun to pay their artists and writers more because they're having to compete with American comics publishers now. Of course, since the devaluation of the dollar, the raises aren't quite as good as they used to be.

Epic also has a *Silver Surfer* project in the works, doesn't it?

Yes, we have the *Silver Surfer* by Stan Lee and Moebius. Indirectly, it came about because of our Moebius graphic novels, which will be continuing this year. It's incredible to me that we're able to do the *Surfer* book; as the pages come in, it's hard for



me to adjust to seeing a Marvel character done by a major European artist whose work I usually associate with graphic novels. Every now and then, when the pages come in, I think, "Has this been translated yet?" Then I remember that Stan's writing this, and we're doing this one.

It's funny how this book came about. Like I said, it had a lot to do with the graphic novels we're doing. The history of American comics involves a tooth-and-nail fight to upgrade American comics, to get better printing, better paper, and better packaging. When we were announcing the Moebius series, we ran some of Moebius' artwork in *Marvel Age*, and they were hand-colored like a regular comic just for that article. He saw it and loved the way it looked—the crappy pulp paper, the fast printing, and all that. He thought it had a different look, and he wanted to try a comic book in that format. Once we had one of the world's greatest comics artists, who can you get to write it? One of the world's greatest comic book writers: Stan Lee.

*Silver Surfer* was a very popular character in Europe. The story Stan came up with fits in very well with Moebius' own philosophy and feelings.

It took a little while to get the project under way; Moebius re-drew a lot of the book. I understand he does this all the time; as he starts a project, he starts feeling his way into it, and often discards pages—discards, but doesn't throw away, so don't hang outside his studio and look for pages in the garbage. He redraws those pages to suit himself.

What we'll be doing will allow readers to see some of those pages. The original edition of the book will come out as two separate monthly issues that will form one story. Around Christmas-time, we'll collect that material, have it recolored more elaborately, have a new cover done, add in all these pages that he's either taken out or decided to change in some way—we'll even use some of those to expand the story in some way—and we'll publish it as a hard-bound by the end of the year. This way, those people who can't stand getting the whole thing for only \$2 can pay more money for it. Of course, some people will just want a hardcover copy of it, which I can understand.

Stan has always been very protective of *Silver Surfer*. He always encouraged Marvel to restrain from overusing the *Silver Surfer*, and he always wants to write it himself whenever he can. This year, readers will have plenty of *Silver Surfer*: the regular book, the Stan Lee/John Buscema graphic novel from Marvel, and the *Epic Silver Surfer*.

I guess *Havok & Wolverine* is one of the biggest Epic projects of all, isn't it?

Yeah, it is. The *Havok & Wolverine* story is called *Meltdown*; it starts off dealing with Chernobyl and reveals for the first time that Chernobyl was not an accident, but was caused by this group of nuclear terrorists who are siphoning the power from various

Have you seen anything in this issue of *Comic Shop News* that you can't live without? Make sure you don't miss it; clip this handy coupon and write down the things that you want your comics shop owner to be sure to get for you!

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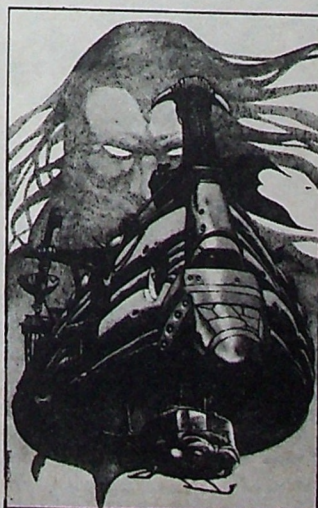
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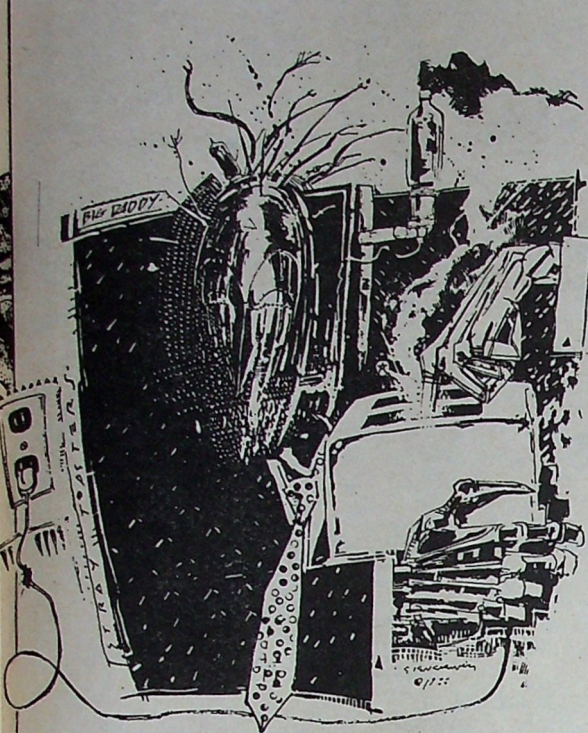
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Light and Darkness War TM & © 1988  
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# SPOTLIGHT ON ARCHIE GOODWIN



## S T R A Y T O A S T E R S

reactors to power their own superhero who will fight for their cause. The group needs Havok to channel and control the nuclear energy; Chernobyl was a failure because they didn't have someone like him.

Havok and Wolverine are on vacation in Mexico when they're attacked and infected with a plague virus. Wolverine wakes up in a hospital and is told that Havok is dead; his mutant healing powers stopped the virus from killing him.

Wolverine goes to Havok's grave; something smells wrong to him, though. He digs down, opens the grave, and finds that it's the wrong body. He then begins tracking down Havok who, through his involvement with one of the women who's a member of this band, is turned against Wolverine for a while. The whole thing cumulates into a face-off against terrorists and a super-villain.

**Meltdown** is written by Walt and Louise Simonson and features incredible artwork by Jay Muth and Kent Williams. One of the unique things about the way those two work together is that one of Jay's favorite characters is Havok; Kent always wanted to do Wolverine. Whenever Havok appears, Jay always does them. When Wolverine appears, Kent does them. On some pages, they appear together, so they both work on the same page. ON other pages, where they don't appear, they split the art

duties, each one doing the things they like. Sometimes they flip a coin and trade off. It's a case of two artists doing what they like; it isn't a combination where one is pencilling and one is painting or something like that. The storyline will present them both together and acting separately. I've seen the first issue, and it looks phenomenal.

### What else is in the works?

We're also doing **Stray Toasters** in the bookshelf format. That's a 48-pager on deluxe paper and all that; it's written and illustrated by Bill Sienkiewicz. Bill has been working on this for about the last year and a half; he now has almost two issues completed. Bill's just phenomenal; when he really gets cooking, even as elaborate and detailed as his artwork is, he's incredibly fast.

**Stray Toasters** takes place in the near future. It deals with a mother and son who are both psychopathic and at war with one another. The mother is a slasher-type killer; the son can interact telepathically with machines and turns the machines against their owners. "Stray Toasters" is the name for these machines--sort of "servants of mankind" that have turned against them.

There's an aging, hardbitten cop who's trying to track down both of the killers and find out just what's going on. He has a personal demon, an alter-ego--a little demon who lives above him and functions like a Greek chorus in this play. While the whole thing works like a *Bladerunner*-like detective story, it's also a bit bizarre and surrealistic.

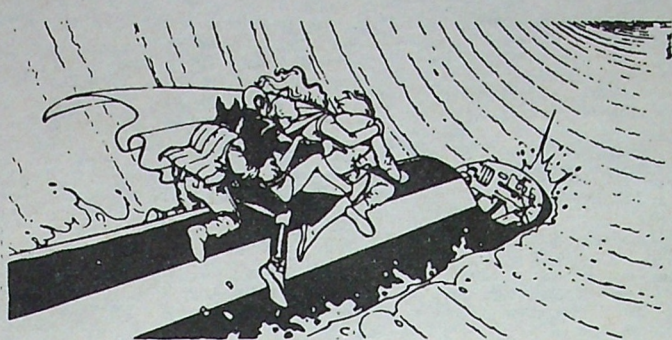
He's doing really big artwork; he's brought in some artwork that made the stat and photo-houses think we've brought them a billboard instead of a page for a comic book.

He's done an ad that involved real plugs and outlets glued onto artwork and painted over. It's incredible to see what he's doing with this book.

**Crash** did very well for Epic, didn't it? Are there any plans for a second computerized graphic novel?

I'm talking to Mike Saenz about a second project right now; it's too early to say if it'll work out or not. I'm also talking with another artist, Pepe Moreno, who's involved in computer art; he may be doing another computer-art project for us.

A lot of people in comics won't realize how phenomenal a project **Crash** is and how major an accomplishment it was. No book has ever been done on a computer to this extent--everything about **Crash** was computerized. **Shatter** was done on a Macintosh, but they didn't have color then.



Incal Vol 3 and © 1988 Moebius & Jodorowsky

The technology has improved so that he could produce everything on a disk, down to the color separations. It was such a great-looking book that Steve Oliffe is using the computerized coloring technique for **Akira** now.

**Crash** is a kind of computer-buff's wishbook; there are all these techniques that are available to desktop publishers that they've incorporated into it. The advantage we have is that we have printers who can take this sort of output and get a great-looking book--very few computer buffs have that capability.

### Are there any other projects for the fall?

There's a **Punisher** graphic novel this fall; it's called **Return to Big Nothing**, and it's written by Steven Grant and illustrated by Mike Zeck and John Beatty. This is the same team that did the original limited series. Since it's Epic, it'll be a little more adult than

the regular **Punisher** book; since it's a graphic novel, it touches on the Punisher's past a little bit while dealing with a current adventure. In this graphic novel, a character from his past comes back to haunt him. Mike Zeck will be doing his own coloring for

this one, too.

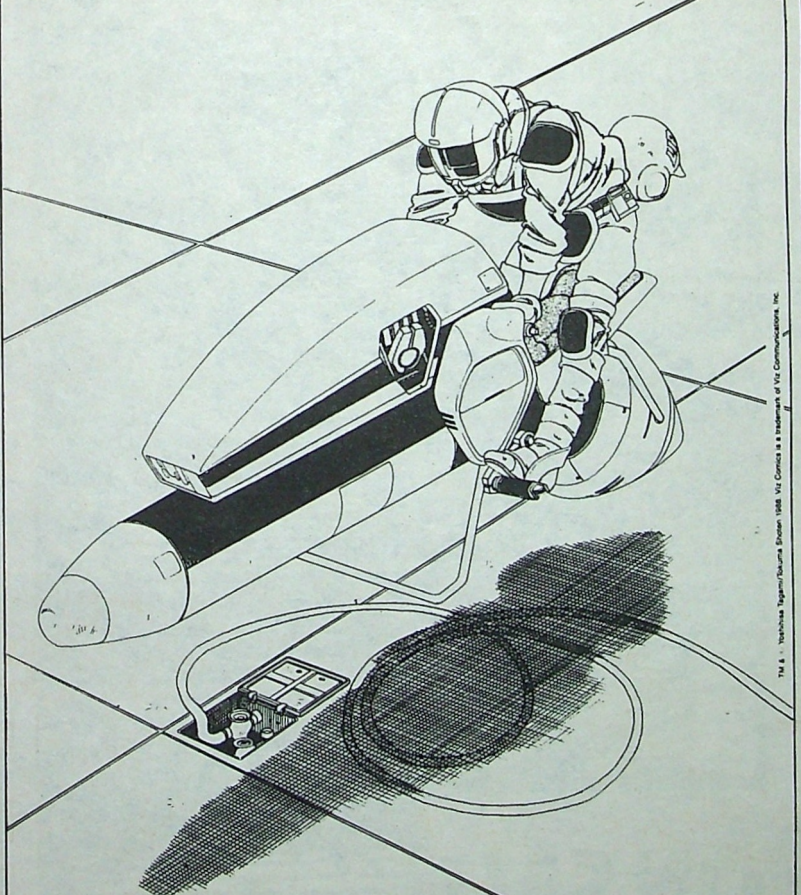
Later on down the line, we have the **Groo Chronicles**; that'll begin in 1989, done in the bookshelf format. The **Groo Chronicles** will reprint all the Pacific material and the one Eclipse issue; there will be some new material and Tom Luth will recolor the entire thing for camera separation.

We're talking to Marv Wolfman about a **Tomb of Dracula** series; we were talking about doing it as an Epic book because vampires are gone from the Marvel Universe now, so he wouldn't fit in there any longer. I've talked to Tom DeFalco, though, and he isn't averse to having Dracula return to the Marvel Universe. If Tom decides to have it published as a Marvel book, since it began in the Marvel Universe, that's fine; I'd love to see it as an Epic book, though. I feel confident that it's coming from Marvel, but I don't know when.

PRESENTED BY  
TOKUMA SHOTEN  
AND VIZ COMICS  
FOREWORD BY  
HARLAN ELLISON

## GREY

STORY AND  
ART BY  
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# UPCOMING COMICS QUICKLIST

The Upcoming Comics listing of scheduled titles and the dates that they should arrive in comic shops across the country. That doesn't mean that the books will always be in your shop on the date listed; some publishers ship from different parts of the country, and the farther away the publisher is from your local comic shop, the longer it will take the books to get to you. Publishers are sometimes forced to reschedule titles, and that might result in some date changes on some releases.

Each entry presents the title and number of the book, followed by the release date; if a title doesn't have a scheduled release date (some publishers merely say that their books will ship in January without giving a date), we don't give you a date. After that is the Publisher of the comic and the price. If a book you're looking for is on the index and doesn't arrive in a week or two after the date, be sure to ask the friendly folks at your comic shop; they may be able to update you on schedule changes that have affected that book.

Hang on to this list! It presents the titles that are supposed to ship during the next four weeks. The first CSN each month lists every title scheduled to ship to ship that month.

□ **Aargh!** 1 Mad Love \$4

Alan Moore, Frank Miller, and others contribute to this benefit comic intended to combat British homophobia

□ **Action Comics Weekly** 619 8/11 DC \$1.50

□ **Action Comics Weekly** 620 8/18 DC \$1.50

□ **Action Comics Weekly** 621 8/25 DC \$1.50

□ **Airboy** 42 8/11 Eclipse \$1.95

□ **Akira** 3 8/25 Marvel \$3.50

□ **AI** 10 8/11 Marvel \$1

□ **Allen Legion** 7 8/25 Marvel \$1.50

□ **Allens** 3 Dark Horse \$1.95

Mark Verheiden and Mark Nelson continue the story of the invasion of the alien homeworld in this top-selling title

□ **Alpha Flight** 65 8/11 Marvel \$1.50

□ **Amazing Heroes** 149 Fantagraphics \$2.95

Focus on Hero Comics-Flare cover

□ **Amazing Spider-Man** 310 8/11 Marvel \$1

□ **American** 6 Dark Horse \$1.75

□ **American Flagg!** 8 8/18 First \$1.95

□ **Archie's Double Digest** 37 8/11 Archie \$2.25

□ **Archie's Pals 'n Gals** 202 8/11 Archie .75

□ **Archie's Story & Game Digest** 9 8/25 Archie \$1.35

□ **Area** 88 30 8/18 Eclipse \$1.50

□ **Avengers** 298 8/18 Marvel \$1



No Avengers appear—but the rebuilding of the team begins

□ **Batman** 426 8/25 DC \$1.50

Beginning the "Death in the Family" storyline that allows readers to determine if Robin lives or dies

□ **Batman: Killing Joke** (reprint) 8/18 DC \$3.50

DC indicates that even those who have the first printing of this Moore/Bolland book may want a copy of the second printing

□ **Batman: The Cull** 3 8/11 DC \$3.50

□ **Blood of the Innocent** GN Apple \$8.95

Presenting the Hempel & Wheatley Dracula/Jack the Ripper mini-series in one volume

□ **Brave and the Bold** 3 8/11 DC \$2.50

Reprints of classic Neal Adams, Joe Kubert, and Russ Heath B&B stories

□ **Captain America** 348 8/11 .75

The Captain breaks free of the Commission

□ **Captain Atom** 21 8/11 DC \$1

□ **Captain Atom Annual** 2 8/25 DC \$1.50

□ **Captain Confederacy** 11 Steeldragon Press \$1.95

□ **Champions Annual** 1 8/18 Hero \$2.75

□ **Checkmate** 9 8/11 DC \$1.25

□ **China Sea** GN Aircel \$4.95

Barry Blair's "Terry-and-the-Pirates"ish adventure

□ **Classic X-Men** 28 8/18 Marvel \$1.25

□ **Cobalt** 60 TPB Donning \$7.95

Classic Bode strip

□ **Conan** 213 8/18 Marvel \$1

□ **Conan Saga** 19 8/25 Marvel \$2

□ **COPS** 4 8/11 DC \$1

□ **Cyclops** 3 Comics Interview \$1.95

Woodcock and Stelfreeze look at cybernetic future policemen—weekly mini-series

□ **Deadshot** 2 8/25 DC \$1

Popular Suicide Squad member in his own mini-series

□ **Den** 2 Fantagor \$2

□ **Defective** 592 8/4 DC .75

□ **Dick Tracy Weekly** 46 Blackthorne \$2

□ **Dick Tracy Weekly** 47 Blackthorne \$2

□ **Doc Savage** 2 8/18 DC \$1.75

O'Neil & Whigham continue the adventures of the greatest pulp hero of them all—now in the 1980's!

□ **Donald Duck Adventures** 9 8/4 Gladstone .95

□ **DP** 7 26 8/11 Marvel \$1.50

□ **Dr. Who Magazine** 140 Marvel UK \$4.75

□ **Dr. Zero** 4 8/18 Marvel \$1.50

□ **Dragonlance** 1 8/25 DC \$1.25

Beginning the DC/TSR joint effort with a series based on popular fantasy game

□ **Dreamery** 11 8/11 Eclipse \$2

□ **Eagle** 20 Apple \$1.95

□ **Eddy Current** 11 Mad Dog \$2

Penultimate issue of Ted McKeever series

□ **Elementals** 28 8/25 Comico \$1.75

□ **Elfquest** TPB V. 2 Father Tree Press \$16.95

Presenting Elfquest storyline with new pages, recolored

□ **Elric: Bane of the Black Sword** 3 8/25 First \$1.95

□ **Epic Silver Surfer** 1 8/11 Marvel \$1

Stan Lee and Moebius unite on this story of the Silver Surfer versus Galactus in the future

□ **Everything's Archie** 139 8/25 Archie .75

□ **Ex-Mutants** 5 Eternity \$1.95

□ **Excalibur Poster** Marvel \$4.95

□ **Fangoria** 78 8/25 Starlog \$3.50

□ **Fantastic Four** 321 8/25 Marvel .75

Presenting the new Frightful Four

□ **Fat Freddy's Cat** 1 Rip Off Press \$2

Comic-sized reprinting of popular underground strip

□ **Firestorm** 78 8/18 DC \$1

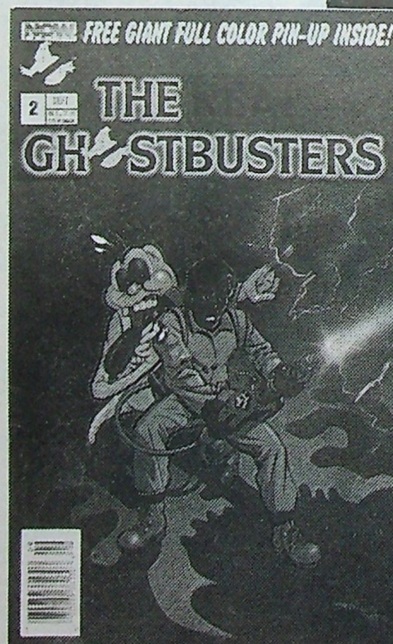
□ **Fish Police** 128/11 Comico \$1.75

All-new story and art

□ **Flare** 1 8/18 Hero \$2.75

Burgard and Beacham illustrate this new series

# HOT!



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# UPCOMING COMICS QUICKLIST

- **Flash** 19 8/18 DC \$1
- **Freak Bros. Library V. 1** RipOff Press \$7.95
- **Freak Show GN** Continuity \$9.95
- Bruce Jones/Berni Wrightson graphic novel will also be released in a \$40 limited edition
- **GI Joe** 81 8/18 Marvel \$1
- **GI Joe Digest** 13 8/25 Marvel \$1.50
- **Godzilla** 3 Dark Horse \$1.95
- **Gorezone** 4 8/25 Starlog \$3.50
- **Green Arrow** 118/25 DC \$1
- Part 3 of Longbow Hunters sequel
- **Grendel** 22 8/11 Comico \$1.75
- **Grimjack** 53 8/11 First \$1.95
- **Groo** 46 8/11 Marvel \$1
- **Hawk and Dove** 3 8/18 DC \$1
- **Hawkmoon: Runestaff** 4 8/25 First \$1.95
- **Haywire** 3 8/25 DC \$1.25
- **Heathcliff** 29 8/11 Marvel \$1
- **Hellblazer** 12 8/25 DC \$1.25
- **Incredible Hulk** 350 8/18 Marvel .75
- The Hulk! The Thing! Dr. Doom! Check it out!
- **Inhumans GN** 8/25 Marvel \$7.95
- **Jonny Quest** 27 8/25 Comico \$1.75
- **Jughead with Archie Digest** 39 8/18 Archie \$1.35
- **Justice** 26 8/18 Marvel \$1.50
- **Justice League International** 20 8/18 DC .75
- Guest art by Ty Templeton
- **Justice Machine** 20 8/11 Comico \$1.75
- **Kamul** 30 8/11 Eclipse \$1.50
- **Kamul** 31 8/25 Eclipse \$1.50
- **Legion of Super-Heroes** 53 8/25 DC \$1.75
- Levitz and Giffen are back!
- **Libby Ellis** 3 Eternity \$1.95
- **Life with Archie** 269 8/11 Archie .75
- **Light & Darkness War** 1 8/18 Marvel \$1.95
- **Little Archie Digest** 33 8/25 Archie \$1.35
- **Love & Rockets** 28 Fantagraphics \$2.25
- **Mad Magazine** 285 Mad \$1.50
- **Manhunter** 6 8/18 DC \$1
- **Marvel Age** 69 8/18 Marvel .50
- **Marvel Comics** 8 8/11 Marvel \$1.25
- **Marvel Comics** 9 8/25 Marvel \$1.25
- Wolverine's adventures continue

- **Marvel Fanfare** 41 8/18 Marvel \$1.25
- Simonson & Gibbons present a 22-page Dr. Strange story
- **Marvel Tales** 218 8/18 Marvel .75
- Reprinting Amazing Spider-Man #201
- **Mickey Mouse** 243 8/18 Gladstone .95
- **Moebius HC** Grahitti \$45.95
- Reprinting 3 Marvel GN's in one signed limited edition
- **Ms. Tree** 50 Renegade \$2.75
- **Mugwog GN** Continuity \$9.95
- Arthur Suydam GN will also be printed in signed limited edition

- **Nam Magazine** 5 8/11 Marvel \$2
- **New Mutants** 70 8/11 Marvel \$1
- **New Teen Titans Annual** 4 8/11 DC \$2.50
- **New York Year Zero** 2 8/18 Eclipse \$2
- **Nick Fury vs. SHIELD** 5 8/18 Marvel \$3.50
- **Ninja High School** 6 Eternity \$1.95
- **Powerpack** 42 8/18 Marvel \$1
- Inferno tie-in
- **Prisoner** 1 8/25 DC \$3.50
- Askwith and Motter explore the Village and the world of Number Six
- **Private Eyes** 1 Eternity \$1.95
- Reprinting the Saint comic strip

- **Prowler "White Zombie"** 1 8/18 Eclipse \$2
- **Punkster TPB** 8/11 Marvel \$7.95
- Reprinting 5-issue miniseries
- **Punkster's War Journal** 2 8/25 Marvel \$1.50
- Daredevil guest-stars
- **Racer-X** 2 8/11 NOW \$1.75
- **Ralph Smart Adventures** 2 8/11 NOW \$1.75
- **Reaper of Love HC** Fantagraphics \$40
- Berni Wrightson signed limited edition hardcover
- **Roachmill** 3 Dark Horse \$1.75
- **Robotech: Macross Saga** 30 8/25 Comico \$1.75
- **Rockers** 1 RipOff \$2

Not just another pretty face.



It's not John Gaunt, but it is Grimjack.



No. 55

On sale in October from



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Lady Cop



**Late News:** Because of the recent increase in advance orders, **Delta Tenn** is now available in even more comic shops. Be sure to look for your copy!

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# UPCOMING COMICS QUICKLIST

- **Sable** 10 8/25 First \$1.95
- **Sam Slade - Robohunter** 19 Quality \$1.25
- **Samurai 2** Aircel \$1.70
- **Savage Henry** 7 Vortex \$1.75
- **Savage Sword of Conan** 154 8/11 Marvel \$2
- **Scarlet in Gaslight GN** Eternity \$7.95  
Presenting 4-issue *Homes vs. Jack the Ripper* series in one volume
- **Scout: War Shaman** 5 8/25 Eclipse \$1.95



- **Secret Origins** 33 8/25 DC \$1.50  
Presenting *Secret Origins of the Justice League International*
- **Shadow Annual** 2 8/25 DC \$2.50  
A look back at the Shadow's career
- **She-Hulk Poster** Marvel \$4.95
- **SHIELD Poster** Marvel \$4.95  
Steranko cover for *Nick Fury Vs. SHIELD #1*
- **Silent Invasion TPB** 2 NBM \$8.95
- **Silver Surfer** 18 8/18 Marvel \$1
- **Solo Avengers** 13 8/11 Marvel .75  
Wonder Man by Jackson Guice
- **Someplace Strange GN** 8/11 Marvel \$6.95  
Ann Nocenti/John Bolton fantasy graphic novel
- **Speakeasy** 59 8/25 Eclipse \$1.50
- **Speed Racer Classics** 1 8/25 NOW \$3.75  
Over 200 pages of *Speed Racer* manga reprints in one inexpensive volume
- **Spirit** 46 Kitchen Sink \$2
- **St. George** 3 8/25 Marvel \$1.50  
Chichester/Clark and Janson present this Shadowline Saga story
- **Star Digest** 13 8/11 Marvel \$1.50
- **Starlog** 135 8/11 Starlog \$3.50
- **Steve Canyon** 21 Kitchen Sink \$6.95
- **Street Music** 1 Fantagraphics \$2.75
- **Strontium Dog** 12 Quality \$1.25
- **Sub-Mariner** 2 8/18 Marvel \$1.50
- **Suburban Nightmares** 4 Renegade \$2
- **Suicide Squad** 19 8/4 DC \$1
- **Suicide Squad Annual** 1 8/18 DC \$1.50
- **Superman** 24 8/25 DC .75  
Kerry Gammill debuts as regular artist
- **Tallgunner Jo** 4 8/25 DC \$1.25
- **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles** 17 Mirage \$1.50
- **Thor** 398 8/25 Marvel .75



- **Tiger-X 2** Eternity \$1.95
- **Total Eclipse** 28/11 Eclipse \$3.95  
Aztec Ace, Miracleman, Masked Man, Ms. Tree, Destroyer Duck, and more help battle Zed in this issue
- **Transformers** 47 8/25 Marvel \$1
- **Transylvania GN** Continuity \$6.95  
Neal Adams horror story featuring Dracula
- **Trouble with Girls Annual** 1 Eternity \$2.95
- **Twilight Avenger** 2 Eternity \$1.95
- **Uncle Scrooge Adventures** 10 8/18 Gladstone .95
- **V for Vendetta** 4 8/18 DC \$2  
Moore and Lloyd's grim vision of England in the near future

- **Vietnam Journal** 8 Apple \$1.95
- **Wall Disney's Comics & Stories** 535 8/25 Gladstone .95
- **Whisper** 19 8/11 First \$1.95
- **Who Framed Roger Rabbit? GN** 8/18 Marvel \$6.95  
Daan Jippes and Dan Spiegel bring the popular film to comics—including scenes not used in the film!
- **Wolverine** 2 8/11 Marvel \$1.50
- **Wolverine/Hulk Poster** Marvel \$4.95  
Todd MacFarlane cover for *Hulk #340*
- **Wonder Woman** 23 8/18 DC \$1
- **X-Men** 239 8/18 Marvel \$1

- **X-Terminators** 3 8/25 Marvel \$1
- **Xenon** 17 8/11 Eclipse \$1.50
- **Young All-Stars** 19 8/11 DC \$1.50  
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## THE ARTIST OF CLASSIC X-MEN™ AND THE WRITER OF DAREDEVIL TAKE YOU...

# SOMEPLACE Strange™



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